

VIRGINIA CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, MARCH 26, 2013

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Virginia, Minnesota, was called to order by Mayor Russo at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

Roll Call:

Present: Councillors Cuffe, Littlewolf, Baribeau, Sipola, Baranzelli, Mayor Russo - 6

Absent: Councillor Ralston - 1

Mayor Russo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baribeau to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held March 12, 2013.
2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 13-006 – Schedule of Bills.

Motion carried and Finance Resolution adopted unanimously.

City Attorney Butorac stated the City Council has thirty days from the date of the public hearing to adopt an ordinance to approve the changes to the City Charter. Since the public hearing was held on March 12th, City Attorney Butorac recommended taking action on the ordinance at the April 9th Council meeting, as all members must be present to vote.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Baranzelli to table to the amendments to the City Charter until the April 9, 2013, City Council meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Russo reported on the Finance Committee-of-the-Whole meeting held on March 19, 2013.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to authorize the Police Chief to prepare a detailed proposal for a security lock system to secure City offices, including costs, for the next Finance Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Baranzelli to deny the request from the St. Louis County Fair Committee for a donation. Motion carried.

Moved by Sipola and supported by Littlewolf to deny the request for a donation for the John Kauppinen Scholarship Fund. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Sipola to publicly review the list of criteria that cities must meet to approve donations, in order to meet the public purpose requirements. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau requested that the Finance Committee meeting minutes be corrected to reflect the funds that were received by Virginia were for the Phase I contamination investigation and not for the actual clean up.

Councillor Cuffe reported on the Personnel Committee meeting held on March 19, 2013.

Moved by Baribeau and supported by Russo to not proceed with establishing an eligibility list for a Paramedic/Firefighter position at this time. Motion carried.

Councillor Cuffe stated the Personnel Committee will be reviewing personnel costs, by department. Employee costs for the Fire Department were distributed at the last Personnel Committee meeting and will be further discussed at a future meeting.

Councillor Littlewolf reported on the Buildings/Grounds Committee meeting held on March 19, 2013.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Sipola to authorize the City Operations Director and Park Commissioner Gilness to continue working with the developer on a site plan for the former Culligan site and forward a copy of the Master Comprehensive Plan and updated Parks/Trails Plan to the developer to consider when working on the architectural design and site plan. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Sipola to obtain a market value for the former Culligan site on Silver Lake. Motion carried.

Councillor Baribeau corrected information he presented at the Buildings/Grounds Committee and noted there was no encumbrance of Community Development Block Grant funds for the demolition of the former Culligan Building.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Baribeau to remove the requirement from the Miners Memorial Building Rental Policy to have a police officer at wedding receptions. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Baranzelli to approve the revised Rental Policy for the Miners Memorial Building and request the Park/Recreation Director to create a rental policy for the Olcott Park and Greenhouse for review at a future meeting. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Cuffe to authorize Councillor Littlewolf to discuss the availability of the Library meeting rooms with the Library Commission. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Sipola to authorize the City Operations Director to work with SEH Engineering on a conceptual design for potential development for the Northern Heights Industrial Park. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported by Sipola to instruct the Finance Department to include funds in the 2014 budget for upgrades to City Hall, including the replacement of the steps at both entrances and tuck-pointing. Motion carried.

Councillor Cuffe reported that he, along with Mayor Russo, testified at a Legislative Committee hearing on the ability for the Virginia Public Utilities to increase the rate with Xcel Energy to generate additional revenue for the biomass system. Councillor Cuffe further reported that they both testified on the relocation of the utilities to the Midway Addition, due to the proposed realignment of Highway 53. He stated \$11 million has been earmarked in the bonding bill for the utility relocation, plus an additional \$1.2 million for the relocation of the Mesabi Trail.

Mayor Russo gave an update on the options to realign Highway 53 and stated the westerly route resurfaced last week, which would reroute Highway 53 by utilizing Highway 37 to Highway 7 to Highway 169 and then reentering Highway 53. Mayor Russo stated he attended a meeting with the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the westerly route option was met with a lot of opposition and would be devastating to Virginia and Eveleth. These are numerous issues with the westerly route, including additional time for ambulances, delays at railroads tracks, huge impact to the school district with the bus routes, plus delays to the proposed new Jefferson bus service.

Councillor Baribeau reviewed information that was obtained by driving to the east and south areas of the Iron Range using the proposed westerly route. Councillor Baribeau will provide the information on the additional mileage and time that is added when utilizing the westerly route.

Councillor Sipola recommended that contact information for the legislators be placed on the public access channel so the public can contact them with their concerns regarding the relocation of Highway 53.

City Operations Director Tourville stated the Minnesota Department of Transportation will be holding a Public Advisory Committee meeting at 1:30 P.M. on April 18, 2013, to further discuss the relocation of Highway 53.

Mayor Russo encouraged the public to visit the Smithsonian Institute Traveling Exhibit, which will be located at the B'nai Synogue through April 20, 2013. Councillor Littlewolf stated she and her sister will be speaking on April 10th, as part of the Smithsonian Institute, regarding the transition of their family from the Leech Lake Tribe to the City of Virginia.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M., with the next regular City Council meeting to be held at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, April 9, 2013.

LOUIS J. RUSSO

Mayor

(CORPORATE SEAL)

LOIS ROSKOSKI

City Clerk